

Appl. No.: 10/691,388
Amdt. Dated: 01/19/2007
Reply To Final Office Action Mailed: 10/19/2006

Reply Under 37 CFR 1.116
Expedited Procedure

REMARKS

The Final Office Action mailed October 19, 2006 indicated that claims 1-12 and 14-24 were pending and that 1-12 and 14-16 are allowed. In reply, Applicant has canceled claims 17-24 (without prejudice or disclaimer) so only the allowed claims 1-2 and 14-16 remain in the above-referenced patent application. Applicant has also amended claims 1 and 12 for clarity by correcting typographical omissions. Entry of this amendment after final is respectfully requested since it cancels claims, introduces no new matter, requires no additional search, and expedites issuance of allowable subject matter.

Claim Rejections 35 USC § 102

Claim Rejections 35 USC § 103

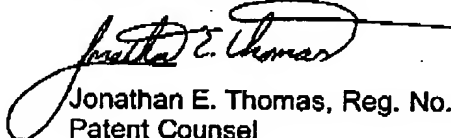
1. The rejection of claims 17-19 and 22 under 35 USC § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC § 103 (a) as obvious over Furuichi (US 2001/0055696) is moot in view of the cancellation of claims 17-24.

2. The rejection of claim 24 under 35 USC § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Furuichi (US 2001/0055696) is moot in view of the cancellation of claims 17-24.

3. The rejection of claims 17-24 under 35 USC § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Morita, et al. (US 2003/0051901) in view of Thieme, et al. (US 2002/0173428) is moot in view of the cancellation of claims 17-24.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is needed, the Examiner is cordially requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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